

# OFFICE OF TENNESSEE RECOVERY ACT MANAGEMENT

Using Recovery Act Funds to Drive  
School Reform and Improvement





**“I am proud of Tennessee's reputation for good government, and I want and expect us to be a model for other states in how we handle Recovery Act money sensibly – turning square corners, and with every nook and cranny of what we do and what we spend well-lighted and visible to the public.”**

**– Governor Phil Bredesen**

**Dr. Julie McCargar, Executive Director  
Office of Federal Programs**

**Bobbi Lussier, Executive Director  
Office of Early Learning**

# Agenda



- Overview of main K-12 ARRA funds
  - NCLB (Title I, School Improvement, Homeless, Education Technology)
  - Stabilization
  - State Competitive Grants (Teacher Incentive Fund, Statewide Data Systems, Race to the Top)
- ARRA Four Core Reforms
- Discussion of new USDOE guidance on using ARRA
- Funds to drive school reform and improvement
- Reflections from the presenters
- Audience opinion survey
- Questions and Answers



# Purpose of Education ARRA Funds



- Jump start school reform and improvement
- Save and create jobs
- Stimulate the economy

# Stabilization Funds



- Largest single category of ARRA education funds
- Tennessee's grant is \$943,288,000
- 81.8% for public K-12 education and higher education to restore current or future shortfalls
  - Public post-secondary and K-12 BEP
  - K-12 stabilization funds can be used for any program under ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, or Adult Education Act
- 18.2% for education, public safety and other government services
  - Some of this budgeted to restore initial reductions in extended contract, coordinated school health, and other state-funded programs

# Stabilization Funds



- Tennessee's Application for Stabilization Funds available online at:  
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/stateapps/tn.pdf>
- Approval from USDOE available at:  
<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/05/05192009.html>

# National Competitive Grants



- Race to the Top Grants
  - \$4.35 billion available nationally
  - Awarded to states making most progress toward the assurances
  - 50% of funds go to LEAs
- What Works and Innovation
  - \$650 million available to LEAs and non-profits
  - Awarded to those that have made significant gains in closing achievement gaps to be models of best practices
- Grant awards will be made in two rounds in late 2009 and 2010



## Assurances

College- and career-ready standards and high-quality, valid, and reliable assessments for all students, including ELLs and students with disabilities

Pre-K-to-higher education data systems that meet the principles in the America COMPETES Act

Teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers

Intensive support and effective interventions for lowest-performing schools

# Driving Reform and Improvement



Will the proposed use of ARRA funds:

- Drive results for students?
- Increase capacity?
- Accelerate reform?
- Avoid the funding “cliff” and improve longer-term productivity?
- Foster continuous improvement?

# Driving Reform and Improvement



Potential uses of Pre-K-12 ARRA funds to drive long-term reform and improvement:

- Improving teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of highly qualified teachers
- Restructure personnel procedures to improve teacher quality and fill hard-to-staff positions
- Redesign professional development and train effective teachers as great coaches and mentors
- Establish and implement a fair and reliable teacher evaluation system

Potential uses of Pre-K-12 ARRA funds to drive long-term reform and improvement:

- Developing rigorous standards and high-quality assessments
- Increase student participation in rigorous college and career courses
- Develop and adopt valid and reliable formative assessment systems
- Purchase or adapt high quality curriculum aligned to standards with embedded assessments

Potential uses of Pre-K-12 ARRA funds to drive long-term reform and improvement:

- Turning around low-performing schools
- Close and re-open schools with new leadership and staff, new instructional programs, and extended learning time
- Create summer programs and 9th-grade academies so that students are equipped to succeed in algebra and college-preparatory classes
- Launch a comprehensive literacy program

# Driving Reform and Improvement



Potential uses of Pre-K-12 ARRA funds to drive long-term reform and improvement:

- Establishing data systems and using data for improvement
- Develop or enhance data systems that provide teachers information on student progress
- Train educators to use data for decision-making to improve instruction
- Implement online Individual Education Program (IEP) aligned with standards



# Driving Reform and Improvement



Potential uses of Pre-K-12 ARRA funds to drive long-term reform and improvement:

- Improving results for all students
- Strengthen early learning programs
- Use technology to improve teaching and learning
- Increase student awareness of college and career options and provide transition supports
- Invest in school modernization that advances up-to-date science labs, energy efficiency, community, and early childhood facilities

- President Obama has emphasized access to strong, high-quality early childhood education programs as a high priority of his administration, so children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Expansion and improvement of Pre-K programs is an allowable use of the IDEA and Title 1 ARRA funds to ***jump start school reform and improvement.***

# Early Childhood Programs



May 11 Letter to Governor Bredesen from  
Secretary of Health and Human Services:

*"I am writing to day with more information on the funding available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help strengthen statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide range of early childhood programs and services in the State, including child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, IDEA preschool and infants and families programs, pre-kindergarten, and other early childhood care and education programs."*

## Ideas to use ARRA Funds in Early Childhood Programs:

- Using IDEA funding to provide professional development for special education and regular education teachers in math, literacy and behavioral supports.
- Applying for competitive grants from the “Race to the Top” program to build upon and expand pre-K programs that have been shown to make progress in narrowing the achievement gap.
- Applying for grants from the Innovation Fund to improve recruitment and placement of high-quality teachers.
- Using Title I funds to expand pre-K programs, deliver early childhood screening, provide professional development or temporarily increase income eligibility to serve more families.

The *2010 Education Budget* request is focused on laying the foundation for the expansion of early childhood education as part of the President's comprehensive Zero-to-Five initiative. Key proposals in the 2010 budget include the following:

- **\$500 million for a new program of Title I Early Childhood Grants**, which would encourage LEAs to use Title I Recovery Act funds to start or expand Title I preschool programs.
- **\$300 million for a new Early Learning Challenge Fund**, a central component of the President's Zero-to-Five initiative, to help States develop or refine systems for rating and improving the quality of early learning programs.

- **\$162.5 million for Early Reading First**, an increase of \$50 million to expand local efforts to improve the quality of their early literacy services for preschool-aged children.
- **\$370.4 million for an expanded Striving Readers program**, an increase of \$335 million, to provide demonstration grants to LEAs to implement comprehensive and coherent programs of reading instruction for children in the elementary and secondary grades.



Dr. Julie McCargar  
Bobbi Lussier

*Please respond to this question and we will share the results anonymously.*

The Recovery Act will help LEAs make great strides in driving school reform.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. No opinion – neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

# Audience Survey



*Please respond to this question and we will share the results anonymously.*

People in my district are really rethinking their educational strategies because of the Recovery Act.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. I don't know
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

# Questions and Comments